

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037778

20

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15

NSC-05 NASA-01 /055 R

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R 192338Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM (MLS)

REF: LONDON 1419

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

1. REGARDING PLESSEY'S CRITICISMS OF US DECISION ON MLS,  
DEPT UNDERSTANDS PROCESS WOULD NOT HAVE RESULTED IN CHOICE  
OF DOPPLER-SCAN MLS EVEN IF FAA VOTES WERE ABSTRACTED.

2. THE PROCEDURES FAA USED WERE CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO PRO-  
VIDE MAXIMUM AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. TWO CONSORTIA DEVELOPED  
EACH TYPE OF SYSTEM, I.E., DOPPLER-SCAN AND SCANNING-  
BEAM. DURING EVALUATION, EACH CONSORTIUM WAS ALLOWED TO  
IMPROVE ITS DESIGN. THE FAA'S CENTRAL ASSESSMENT GROUP

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PAGE 02 STATE 037778

(CAG) FOUND BOTH TYPES FULLY ACCEPTABLE. CHOICE WAS

EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF FEEDBACK AND ADJUSTMENT  
PROCESS WHICH WAS ALLOWED, AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF ANY CLEAR  
SUPERIORITY OF ONE TYPE OVER THE OTHER.

3. AFTER CAG SELECTION OF BOTH TYPES, A SEVENTEEN MEMBER  
STEERING COMMITTEE OF CAG VOTED 21 DECEMBER TO RECOMMEND  
SELECTION OF SCANNING-BEAM SYSTEM AS U.S. ENTRY FOR  
ICAO COMPETITION. VOTING WAS AS FOLLOWS:

FOR DOPPLER-SCAN:

FAA - 1 VOTE

USAF - 2 VOTES

U.S. NAVY - 1 VOTE

U.S. ARMY - 1 VOTE

UK - 1 VOTE

TOTAL SIX VOTES

FOR SCANNING BEAM:

FAA - 4 VOTES

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION - 1 VOTE

NASA - 1 VOTE

U.S. ARMY - 1 VOTE

FRANCE - 1 VOTE

AUSTRALIA - 1 VOTE

TOTAL - NINE VOTES

ABSTAINING WITH INTENTION TO SUPPORT MAJORITY:

FAA - 1 VOTE

U.S. NAVY - 1 VOTE

TOTAL - TWO VOTES

THUS EFFECTIVE VOTE WAS 11-6 IN FAVOR OF SCANNING-BEAM.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IS NOW UNDER  
REVIEW BY MLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF TOP  
MANAGEMENT REPS FROM FAA, DOT, DOD AND NASA. EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM DOPPLER  
PROPOSERS, TWO U.S. FIRMS AND UK CAA. PLESSEY REP  
WAS PRESENT. COMMITTEE DETERMINATION MUST BE CONCURRED  
IN BY RESPECTIVE AGENCY HEADS. THIS WILL CONSTITUTE  
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PAGE 03 STATE 037778

OFFICIAL USG CHOICE.

5. RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT NO USG DECISION HAS BEEN  
MADE. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING  
CHOICE. FYI: DECISION POSSIBLE MOMENTARILY. WHILE  
WE REGRET PLESSEY REACTION TO RECOMMENDATION, WE  
BELIEVE THE CLOSENESS AND INTENSITY OF THE COMPETITION  
PROBABLY MADE IT UNAVOIDABLE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE037778  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JKGORDON:VLV  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750060-0824  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750230/aaaabawp.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LONDON 1419  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR - MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM (MLS)  
**TAGS:** EAIR, UK  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006